

Governor Patrick and MassDEP Launch MassCleanDiesel, a New Program to Reduce Air Pollution from School Buses

More than 5,000 Diesel School Buses to be Retrofitted with Pollution Controls by 2010



The Patrick Administration has announced the nation's first fully funded, statewide program to reduce air pollution from school buses. The new program, MassCleanDiesel, will retrofit yellow school buses with two pollution controls, a diesel particulate filter (on the exhaust system) and a diesel oxidation catalyst (on the engine), reducing the pollutants released into the air and bus cabins by as much as 90 percent.

"The buses that take our children to school should not foul the air breathed by those same children, and this program will help end that situation," said Governor Deval Patrick, during the program's announcement at the Julia F. Callahan Elementary School in Lynn. "I applaud the City of Lynn and its school-bus operator, North Reading Transportation Company, for being the first to volunteer for this new program, and I call on all the Commonwealth's school districts and their bus companies to participate."

The program's launch was timed for the end of the school year, when school buses are used less frequently and therefore more available to retrofit.

Administered by MassDEP, over the next three years, MassCleanDiesel will retrofit up to 5,500 school buses, virtually all the large, diesel-powered buses currently serving public schools that weigh more than 10,000 pounds and carry more than 10 students at a time. The pollution controls will be installed using \$16.5 million in state and federal funds provided by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation and Public Works (EOT), under an agreement associated with the Big Dig. Participation in the program is voluntary and retrofits are free to the communities and bus companies that enroll.

Also attending the announcement were Secretary of Environmental and Energy Affairs Ian Bowles, MassDEP Commissioner Laurie Burt, Lynn Mayor Edward "Chip"

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Clancy, Lynn representatives Robert Fennell, Steven Walsh, Mark Falzone and Lori Ehrlich, and John McCarthy, of the North Reading Transportation Company.

School buses are a safe and energy efficient way for children to get to school. But school buses, like all diesel-powered vehicles, pollute the air with harmful gases and particles. Diesel pollution contributes to asthma attacks, respiratory problems and other diseases. A 2006 Department of Health survey of 662,994 students found that 1 in 10 schoolchildren in kindergarten through eighth grade have asthma. Approximately 750,000 students take a bus to school in Massachusetts.

“The launch of MassCleanDiesel affirms the Commonwealth’s commitment to providing clean air to all residents in the state, especially our children,” said Commissioner Burt. “It is also the first step toward a comprehensive approach to combating diesel pollution.”

Governor Patrick directed Secretary Bowles and Commissioner Burt to report back to him, by Labor Day, with a comprehensive program for reducing diesel pollution from other sources, with a priority given to protecting vulnerable populations and reducing heavy concentrations of pollution. The diesel retrofits will decrease the levels of exterior and in-cabin particulate matter, carbon monoxide and hydrocarbon emissions, and produce less tailpipe exhaust and pollutants that form smog, without compromising vehicle performance.

“This is a great idea and a great opportunity for us, for the kids and for improving the air we all breathe,” said North Reading Transportation Co. owner McCarthy. “We’re grateful that the state is stepping up to assist a company like ours and we can help others as a result.”

School Bus Retrofit Facts

- MassCleanDiesel will equip several thousand school buses with pollution controls, some of which remove more than 90 percent of bus pollutants, such as particulate matter, carbon monoxide, and hydrocarbons.
- MassCleanDiesel, when fully implemented, will reduce diesel particle pollution by more than 5 tons per year.
- Reducing bus pollution is important for the 750,000 children in Massachusetts who ride the bus to school every day, because children’s lungs are particularly susceptible to the harmful effects of diesel exhaust.
- The state Department of Public Health found that one in 10 school children in grades kindergarten to eight suffer from asthma.
- At high enough levels, exposure to diesel exhaust can cause lung damage, aggravate existing respiratory conditions like asthma and bronchitis, and cause cancer.
- More than 500,000 vehicles worldwide have already received diesel retrofits similar to those planned under the MassCleanDiesel program.

The North Reading Transportation Co. serves 22,000 students in Chelmsford, Dracut, Lawrence, Lowell, Lynn, North Andover, Wakefield and Wilmington. Other school systems that have expressed interest in the new program include Andover, Beverly, Cohasset, Egremont, Gill, Greenfield, Lincoln and Monson, as well as the Manchester-Essex Regional School District and the Southeastern Regional School District.

To receive free retrofits, school bus owners must enroll in the program, obtain estimates from retrofit vendors and work with those vendors to coordinate equipment installations. MassDEP will reimburse the retrofit vendor directly, provided that installations meet all terms of the program.

For more information about MassCleanDiesel, visit <http://www.mass.gov/dep/air/diesel/masscleandiesel.htm> or call the *MassCleanDiesel Help Line* at 617-292-5809.

Edmonson Named MassDEP's New Deputy Commissioner of Policy and Planning



MassDEP Commissioner Laurie Burt recently appointed Lucy C. Edmondson as MassDEP's new Deputy Commissioner for Policy and Planning.

Edmondson comes to DEP after 13 years at the New England Office of the U.S. EPA in Boston, where she was the Energy and Transportation Team Leader in the Office of Ecosystem Protection.

"The nexus of environmental protection and energy has become a major focus for MassDEP, and Lucy Edmondson brings a unique set of skills as we begin to implement programs that promote increased energy efficiency and resource protection," Commissioner Burt said. "I look forward to working with Lucy as we integrate energy and the environment, and strive to reach our other agency priorities for 2008 and beyond."

As Deputy Commissioner, Edmonds will be leading MassDEP toward achieving priorities that include addressing climate change, managing water resources, recycling and reusing solid waste, redeveloping brownfields, and reducing toxics use and emerging contaminants.

"It is an honor to be part of a state agency that is nationally recognized for its progressive environmental agenda," Edmondson said. "I look forward to working with a talented team of people who are dedicated to making a difference in protecting the environment of the Commonwealth."

At the EPA, Edmondson advanced the New England Office's clean energy and clean diesel programs, developed the New England Community Energy Challenge to promote energy efficiency in municipal buildings, and helped form a collaborative dedicated to reducing pollution from diesel engines. She has been recognized with the National Gold Medal, EPA's highest honor, for her work to reduce diesel pollution. She was a member of the Green Team, which worked to reduce the environmental impact of EPA's New England operations. She has also served as transportation coordinator and chief of operations for the EPA's Regional Administrator.

Prior to joining EPA, she was a transportation planner for the Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM) in Boston, a public education coordinator for the Union of Concerned Scientists in Cambridge, and a director and organizer for the Public Interest Research Groups in Oregon and Massachusetts.

She holds an undergraduate degree from Bowdoin College in Maine, and a Masters Degree in Environmental Policy from Tufts University in Medford.

MassDEP Begins Development of New Stormwater Management Program

Stakeholder Group Formed to Assist With Stormwater Discharge Strategy

MassDEP is developing a comprehensive statewide stormwater strategy to address not only the discharge of pollutants into local water bodies, but also to focus on infiltrating a greater amount of stormwater into the ground to help replenish diminishing water resources and maintain base-flows to streams during the summer.

A stakeholder group of experts has been formed to assist MassDEP in the development of the stormwater program, and new stormwater management regulations will be drawn up for public comment later this year. The stakeholder group includes technical experts, environmental groups, municipalities, universities, and commercial and industrial representatives.

MassDEP is meeting regularly with the stakeholder group and the work groups to receive advice on how MassDEP can make the statewide program most effective. MassDEP will then use those recommendations to issue draft stormwater management regulations this year, and solicit public comments before promulgating a final regulatory program.

Stormwater from urban runoff is the single largest source of water pollution in the Commonwealth's rivers, lakes, ponds and marine waters. These discharges occur when runoff from rainfall and snow melt washes over impervious surfaces like parking lots and roadways, and carries pollutants into nearby surface waters.

Bacteria and phosphorus are the causes of 60 percent of the impairments to our lakes and streams, resulting in algae blooms and violations of state water quality standards. Stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces is the major cause of this pollution.

Approximately 50 percent of the state's watersheds do not have enough water during the summer or times of drought. A contributing factor to this shortage is the volume of groundwater recharge that does not occur when rainwater and snow melt comes in contact with impervious surfaces, such as parking lots, roadways and rooftops at large development sites. Instead of soaking into the ground, rainfall flows off these paved surfaces and into nearby waters, compromising surface water quality and exacerbating downstream flooding.

There is currently no comprehensive stormwater plan in the Commonwealth. However, MassDEP implemented a program in 1996, and updated it earlier this year, to address stormwater discharges in wetlands areas. This program has successfully protected wetland resources and sustained recharge to groundwater. MassDEP now intends to build on the success of the wetlands program, and expand its stormwater management to encompass the entire state.

Part of the new statewide stormwater plan will identify best management practices (BMPs) to reduce pollution and increase recharge in watersheds. Due to the fact that MassDEP and the U.S. EPA recently announced new, protective targets to reduce phosphorus pollution to the Charles River Basin, based on up-to-date water quality information, MassDEP will focus a portion of the process in piloting BMPs at existing facilities in the basin to determine which ones are most effective. Some of the BMPs that MassDEP will evaluate include sand filters, bioretention areas, porous pavement, and constructed wetlands.

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The pilot program for the three upper Charles River communities – Bellingham, Franklin and Milford – will provide assistance with the development of best strategies to reduce phosphorus loading from impervious surfaces, and any additional conditions needed for a general permit.

MassDEP will also be reaching out to municipalities, regulated entities and others interested in stormwater issues as part of this program. If you have any questions about the information available or about how to participate, please contact Fred Civian, in the MassDEP Bureau of Resource Protection, at: 617-292-5821.

Streamlining Success

Meeting the Governor's Call for 'Regulation at the Speed of Business, MassDEP is Issuing 99% of Permits Within Required Deadlines

The streamlining initiative Governor Deval Patrick announced early in 2007 for Massachusetts challenged state officials to adopt “regulation at the speed of business” and targeted, in part, environmental permits. One year later, significant changes at MassDEP have already been made with still more in 2008, and beyond.

The Governor's mandate required that changes must hold fast to the state's core principles of protecting the environment and ensuring citizens continued access to clean air, water and soil.

Initially, in February 2007, MassDEP proposed regulations reducing by 20 percent the timelines for the majority of permit categories, with a money-back guarantee for all permit applicants should the percent of all its permit decisions in 180 days or less. The results so far: MassDEP has issued permit decisions within the specified expiration of time on 99 percent of applications.

Also, in 2007 MassDEP targeted four important permit areas for streamlining: Air Quality, Chapter 91, Groundwater Discharge, and Wetlands. MassDEP chose these four categories to balance the need to capitalize on significant economic development opportunities with the need to streamline and remove delays while maintaining the state's core principle of continued environmental quality.

Air Quality:

Regulatory reform by MassDEP over the last decade has already reduced air quality permit application reviews, but industry and consultants continue to identify this sector as more time-consuming aspect in the overall state-level approval process.

Concerns focused on the processing time and costs, but also the determinations on when air pollution sources should be controlled using Best Available Control Technology (or BACT). Although BACT has the environmental benefit of forcing the adoption of advanced technology, it is not always feasible or necessary. It does, however, result in significant costs to install, so BACT can be a resource intensive and contentious process.

MassDEP's strategy for air permits has meant more applicants qualify for what is a more simplified permit (also known as Limited Plan Application); more permit holders can consolidate their previously-issued permits and streamline their associated reporting requirements, and all applicants now have a clearer framework that enunciates options for performing BACT analysis and simpler procedures for administrative amendments.

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Chapter 91 (waterfront structures):

Chapter 91 licensing is an integral part of economic development projects located in the Commonwealth's filled and flowed tidelands. Developments on and near the water will always pose unique regulatory challenges, but because of their importance, will continue to be a focus of streamlining efforts.

MassDEP has sought a complete and thorough review to identify process and regulatory improvements that can reduce the timelines associated with licensing decisions while still protecting and ensuring public access to waterfront resources.

To maintain Massachusetts' high standards of protection, and ensure that this critical aspect of our state's identity is preserved, the Chapter 91 regulations are now undergoing review by the legislature.

Chapter 91 is among the oldest set of regulations, and as the waterfront changes and evolves over time, so will the rules and regulations that cover them. The challenge MassDEP faces is to strike the right balance among many competing interests in ways that don't bog the process down, but continue to protect and promote the wise use of the waterfront in ways that enhance opportunities for civic engagement and commerce.

Groundwater Permits (wastewater):

To streamline the existing permit process and reduce the time it takes to obtain a groundwater discharge permit, MassDEP found and removed several obstacles that were unnecessary, in an effort to enhance public protection.

For instance, under the proposed streamlined program, a proponent will file a separate application seeking review and approval of the hydrogeological evaluation and authorization to apply for an individual permit or coverage under a general permit.

This means that upon completion of this step, the applicant will know what flow can be accommodated at the proposed site well before an application for a permit and commencement of the actual design of the treatment facility. This provides the applicant with much greater certainty earlier in the process.

In addition, MassDEP is eliminating the complex listing of specific effluent limits and the concurrent Ground Water Quality Standards and replacing both with a simple ironclad requirement that all discharges must meet the standards set forth in the Drinking Water Regulations (except as otherwise provided).

To promote public health and enhance environmental protection, MassDEP is eliminating a prior requirement that discharges connect to a centralized sewer system, if it is available. Instead, in order to promote "recharge" to the groundwater, and thus keep water local, the proposed regulations establish more stringent effluent limitations for discharges within the Zone II or Interim Wellhead Protection Area of a public water supply.

In addition, the new regulations would require applicants to produce an effluent that is virtually contaminant and pathogen free. With this high degree of treatment, wastewater can be reused to

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irrigate golf courses, parks and playgrounds, and provide water for toilet flushing, cooling water for power plants, and agricultural uses. The regulations also establish requirements for the use, sale, and distribution of reclaimed water.

States that face severe water shortages have also captured our attention, particularly in terms of their increased use of reclaimed water, which is defined as domestic wastewater treated to a level such that it is suitable for beneficial reuse. MassDEP expanded on the existing interim guidelines (first established in 1999) in order to expand allowable uses as well as the treatment and monitoring requirements.

Other states have safely expanded the use of reclaimed water, and given the increasing water demands in our state, combined with the need to protect stressed public water supplies, MassDEP believes that the attractiveness of reusing reclaimed water will continue to grow. In this way, Massachusetts can benefit from successful advances demonstrated across the nation.

Finally, in order to improve compliance, an operator responsible for maintaining a wastewater treatment facility will be held more accountable. Specifically, the operator will be held responsible for operating in accordance with the approved operations and maintenance plan and staffing plan specified in the facility's discharge permit. This revision strengthens the ability of MassDEP to take enforcement action against contract operators who fail to fulfill their operational responsibilities.

Wetlands (appeals):

The wetlands appeals process in 2004 implemented a pre-screening evaluation that led to quicker resolution of disputes. However, Governor Patrick directed MassDEP to reform the wetland appeal process even further. The Governor's directive resulted in MassDEP adopting streamlined wetland permit appeals regulations in October 2007. The regulations require the filing and sharing of information early in the proceedings, establish an early pre-screening conference and firm hearing date and a six-month timeline for the appeal to be resolved.

Since the new wetland appeal regulations were adopted, MassDEP has enjoyed great success in resolving wetland permit appeals. As of June 30, 2008:

- Sixty wetland cases have been through the prescreening process since October 31, 2007.
- Twenty-seven cases have been closed by MassDEP's Office of Appeals and Dispute Resolution.
- Twenty cases remain open at MassDEP, while 13 cases were stayed pending local wetland bylaw appeals.

The Path Forward

As with any regulatory changes, the ongoing streamlining and any future changes pertaining to MassDEP will be evaluated and refined against the backdrop of extensive public input and discussion. The streamlining of MassDEP's processes has been open and inclusive and we have encouraged participation from all stakeholders, from the general public and the regulated community to environmental groups and elected officials.

As MassDEP continues to push forward with streamlining, we will work to keep the public apprised of the changes, most notably via our web site, which provides the most-recent updates. Permit streamlining will result in applicants seeing increased efficiency and timeliness in the ways their permits are processed, and the general public will see that the quality of the air, soil, and water in the Commonwealth continues to improve.

Healthy Collaboration

Annual Seminars Held Statewide Bring Health Officers and MassDEP Together To Work on 'Healthy' Issues

A record number of health officials participated in seminars held statewide by MassDEP to discuss important issues like Title 5 and to facilitate communication of issues relevant to members of the Massachusetts Health Officers Association.

MassDEP's Deputy Commissioner of Operations, Ed Kunce, presented an overview of a range of topics including MassDEP Commissioner Laurie Burt's priorities, the Safe Neighborhoods Chemical Initiative, MassDEP's plans for a Mobile Lab, Emerging Contaminants, the Diesel Bus Retrofit Program, the Stormwater Program, and Brownfields Redevelopment.

Other presentation topics included private well considerations, Title 5 case studies, emergencies affecting public water supplies, solid waste disposal considerations, and basic information on the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP) regarding the cleanup of contaminated sites.

Audience members included primarily Board of Health members, as well as some health agents, registered sanitarians, consultants, and others. Seminars were held at Wilmington Middle School, UMass-Dartmouth's Fall River campus, the Cape Codder Resort in Hyannis, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife facility in Hadley, and at Quinsigamond Community College.

As in the past, the questions and discussions during these seminars help define areas for future close collaboration among local health officials and MassDEP staff. Because of the joint implementation responsibility, the Title 5 program continues to be a popular topic and the sessions continue to raise many questions and discussions on implementation issues.

Interest continues and is growing in areas such as: emerging contaminants, particularly pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCPs); environmental and public health concerns over the growing use of smaller scale renewable energy technologies; and the proper management of difficult or unique waste streams, such as medical wastes and "e-waste" items.

The following are details on the seminar presentations. The presentations are also available at MassDEP's website at: <http://www.mass.gov/dep/service/outreach/mhoapres.htm> MassDEP also plans to add to the web site on this program a summary of the key issues and questions that came up during all five seminars.

Emergencies Affecting Public Water Supplies: Roles and Issues for MassDEP and Boards of Health

Using recent incidents as examples, this presentation focuses on the roles played by MassDEP and Boards of Health in an emergency situation affecting municipal water supplies. The presentation includes issues related to incident response, notification to the public and returning to normal operations after the incident. Part of the presentation features an overview of issues faced by the Board of Health involved in a recent multi-day event

Private Well Considerations

This presentation covers the definition of a public water supply, description of varying types of wells, model well regulations and examples, common contaminants and their health effects, treatment options, testing and source protection.

Title 5: Part 1 - Nitrogen Loading Aggregation Plan

This presentation includes a case study of a nitrogen aggregation case, outlining the design, local BOH and MassDEP processes and considerations. The presentation also includes updates related to the Innovative/Alternative (I/A) approval program.

Title 5: Part 2 - Shared System Case Study

This presentation includes a case study of a shared system serving new construction, outlining the design, local BOH and MassDEP processes and considerations and keeping in mind the legal requirements. The presentation also includes information related to the Title 5 system inspection program and procedures for granting Local Upgrade Approvals and Variance in accordance with Title 5.

Top Ten Solid Waste Topics

This presentation includes an update on recent developments, including electronic wastes, unwanted pharmaceutical waste, mercury products, construction and demolition debris, debris from disasters, a new Solid Waste Management Plan, and more.

MCP/21E “101”

MassDEP oversees the assessment and cleanup of oil and hazardous materials releases such as roadway spills; underground storage tank leaks, gasoline station and drycleaner groundwater and soil cleanups, and brownfields sites. This presentation includes information about when to notify of a spill, what to tell a homeowner with a leaking oil tank, how to get more information about a hazardous waste site, who is responsible for cleaning up spills, how long does a cleanup take, what is an LSP, how spills of chemicals – such as mercury – are addressed, and “why do I keep receiving all these site cleanup documents in the mail?”

MassDEP Sponsors Environmental Compliance Assistance Seminar for Coating Industry

Commissioner Burt Seeks to Reinvigorate Agency Assistance to Business Community

MassDEP organized and hosted a compliance assistance seminar for over 75 companies in Central and Northeastern Massachusetts, with a focus on the industrial coatings industry. The seminar was developed as part of Commissioner Laurie Burt’s efforts to re-energize technical assistance offered by MassDEP.

The program was designed to help industrial coatings companies stay in compliance with a number of environmental regulatory requirements, including air quality and hazardous waste rules. It also helped to explain how the regulators and inspectors viewed those requirements in the context of a facility inspection.

MassDEP’s Central and Northeast regions teamed up with the state Office of Technical Assistance and Technology (OTA), the Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI), the Central Massachusetts Business Environmental Network (CMBEN), and Associated Industries of Massachusetts (AIM) to host the seminar, which covered a number of regulatory issues affecting industries that apply coatings to materials.

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The all-day session was held in Devens, and featured a broad agenda, with presentations by U.S. EPA, OTA, TURI, U.S. Department of Defense and MassDEP. Over 75 Massachusetts businesses were represented, with attendance topping 100.

Commissioner Burt opened the program by reiterating the importance of technical assistance and outreach in the context of MassDEP's overall mission. "One of my goals as Commissioner is to reinvigorate the compliance assistance programs that MassDEP offers," she said. "I hope we can use new partnerships, new technologies and new ideas to help meet businesses' needs to stay current with environmental protection requirements."

The Commissioner explained to the audience how the seminar emerged as a result of both a recent enforcement action and recent meetings with state Senators Harriette Chandler and Pamela Resor. The Senators expressed a strong interest in new opportunities to connect with the business sector on technical assistance. Senators Chandler and Resor reiterated those same points in their own welcoming remarks to the audience.

Bob McConnell of EPA kicked off the presentations portion of the day with a discussion of national and regional air quality trends and the importance of air quality permitting in Massachusetts. MassDEP Air Quality permit staffers Patricia Arp and Dana Nicoll were next, and they offered detailed technical presentations summarizing regulatory requirements for coaters.

Attendees also heard from OTA staffers Marina Gayl and Michelle Miilu on the latest in toxics tracking software, as well as tips for accurately tracking material use and opportunities for technical assistance.

This was followed by an update on upcoming regulatory changes and streamlining efforts outlined by Tom Cusson of MassDEP's Central Regional Office, as well as a presentation by Northeast Region Office inspector David LaBrode on common violations identified by MassDEP during facility inspections.

The afternoon also featured a panel discussion on source reduction, alternative materials use and military specifications, with information presented from people who have explored alternative chemicals and materials to reduce air quality impacts. Chris Ford of BAE Systems, Wayne Ziegler with the Army Research Laboratory (ARL) and TURI Laboratory Director Jason Marshall participated in the panel.

Feedback from the session has been positive and its success can be clearly measured by the uptick of technical assistance requests received by OTA, TURI and MassDEP.

The day's presentations can be accessed at MassDEP's website at <http://www.mass.gov/dep/service/onltrain.htm> for those interested in learning more about these topics.

MassDEP News Briefs

Earning GHG Credits: Thomas Nutter, an account executive at InterfaceFLOR in Marshfield, and Jeff Lovasco, an accounts manager at Pavilion Floors in Woburn, presented MassDEP Commissioner Laurie Burt a certificate for 77 tons of carbon dioxide (greenhouse gas) credits. MassDEP earned the credits as a result of the installation of recycled carpeting at One Winter Street, the department's main office at Downtown Crossing in Boston. The installation of 4,353 square yards of carpeting began in

February and ended in August 2007. Interface, which manufactures recycled carpet and markets it under the Cool Carpet label, has launched, internally, its own "Mission Zero" mandate whereby it pledges to eliminate completely any environmental impact the company creates through recycling and the use of carbon offsets. Lovasco, whose workmen did the installation work, noted that in 2008, his company is scheduled to be working at least at one other state agency, the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, where they will also be installing recycled carpets.

First CO2 Auction Scheduled for September: Massachusetts has joined nine fellow Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) states in announcing that the first ever carbon dioxide (CO2) allowance auction in the nation for a mandatory emissions reduction program will take place on Sept. 25, 2008. The RGGI states have agreed to participate in quarterly uniform regional auctions; the second auction is scheduled for Dec. 17, 2008. The first compliance period for the RGGI cap-and-trade program will begin Jan. 1, 2009. RGGI has retained several experts to design and implement the auction, develop and implement an emissions and allowance tracking system, develop an accreditation process for independent verifiers of offset projects, and conduct market monitoring. Nearly 12.5 million carbon emissions allowances will be made available during the nation's first carbon auction. For more information on RGGI and the auction process, turn to: www.rggi.org/ro.htm

Over \$540 Million Awarded in 2008 SRF Program: The 2008 Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) program has awarded more than \$540 million in low-interest loans to Massachusetts' communities, wastewater districts and water supplies for 99 environmental infrastructure and planning improvement projects. The Clean Water SRF will provide \$400 million in financing for 62 construction and planning projects aimed at eliminating combined sewer overflows, upgrading wastewater treatment facilities, extending sewers and developing long-term wastewater management plans. An additional \$140 million in loans from the Drinking Water SRF will finance 37 drinking water treatment, storage and distribution projects. The funds are under the control of the Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust, administered by MassDEP, the Executive Office of Administration and Finance, and the State Treasurer's Office. Massachusetts has awarded nearly \$3.4 billion in Clean Water SRF loans since the program's inception in 1991. The Drinking Water SRF, initiated in 1999, has financed more than \$791 million in projects. For more information about the SRF program, turn to: <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/wastewater/wastewat.htm>

Climate Change Credits Awarded: MassDEP has awarded \$957,885 in grants to 162 communities and regional organizations to address issues of climate change, sustainability, and pollution prevention. The conditional funding will support innovative local and regional efforts to save energy, reduce waste, recycle and compost more, eliminate hazardous materials from school facilities and grounds, and reduce people's exposure to air pollution from excessive idling of bus, car and truck engines. Climate Change grants totaling \$104,000 to six communities that are working to reduce greenhouse gases by using approaches such as installing green roofs, using solar power, public outreach, and retrofitting traffic signals with light-emitting diodes (LEDs). The awards went to Boston, Cohasset, Hull, Marlborough, Melrose and Reading. For a complete list of grant recipients, visit: www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/recawgr.htm

Biking to Victory: For the fourth year in a row, MassDEP has won the Bike Week Commuter Challenge. A Better City Transportation Management Association indicated that MassDEP won in the employer category of 501 to 1,500 employees. MassDEP had 65 employees that registered to ride their bicycles at least part of the way to work during Mass. Bike Week in May. More than 300 companies and agencies participated in the Commuter Challenge this year.

Pharmaceuticals in the Water: The issue of pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCPs) in drinking water sources has recently been in the news. Massachusetts was among the first states in the nation to begin to address the issue, targeting these compounds as part of MassDEP's Emerging Contaminants Workgroup. Since there are no federal or Massachusetts regulations regarding PPCPs and no requirements to test for these compounds, MassDEP is supporting further study of the issue to determine the extent of PPCPs in drinking water supplies and in water resources, and the effectiveness of standard treatment to eliminate the compounds from water supplies and wastewater. MassDEP is now working with UMass-Amherst, the MWRA, Earth Tech, the American Waterworks Association Research Foundation, and selected local water suppliers who have volunteered to conduct a study of PPCPs around the state. MassDEP is also supporting a national research project sponsored by the U.S. Geological Survey, which will target potential PPCPs in waters samples from the Merrimack River. MassDEP also recently convened a summit of key stakeholders from the private, government and public sectors to facilitate the development of strategies to address PPCPs; another summit is planned for the fall. For more information on the issue, go to:
<http://www.mass.gov/dep/toxics/stypes/ppcpedc.htm>

Oil Spill Training Exercise Held: MassDEP recently sponsored a municipal first-responder oil spill training exercise at the Sea Crest Resort, North Falmouth, and in the Wild Harbor area. Fifty federal, state and local responders attended. The exercise focused on bringing local responders together to coordinate deployment of oil spill response equipment previously provided by MassDEP, and to test oil spill protection strategies found in the Buzzards Bay Geographic Response Plan (GRPs). A key funding provision in the Oil Spill Act, which took effect in the fall of 2004, established a Trust Fund that has been accumulating a two-cents-per-barrel fee paid by all vessels delivering oil to a marine oil terminal in Massachusetts. Those funds have been utilized to provide an oil spill response trailer containing thousands of dollars worth of equipment to communities along the SouthCoast and on Cape Cod. MassDEP has also created a training and response web site for state and local emergency responders to use as a training tool. It provides valuable information on oil spill response equipment and GRPs provided by DEP to assist in preparedness and response to oil spill events. To find this information, turn to: www.horsleywitten.com/depoilspill/Pages/presentation.html

DeGabriele Honored with EPA Merit Award: The New England Office of the EPA recently honored a MassDEP staffer with an Environmental Merit Award. Steven DeGabriele, head of the MassDEP Business Compliance Division, was among four citizens and nine groups honored as part of the EPA's Earth Day ceremony. DeGabriele is a champion of MassDEP's innovative Environmental Results Program (ERP), an initiative that improves environmental performances of businesses in cost-effective ways. The program, developed for dry cleaners, printers and photo processors, has inspired 24 other states to either adopt or research this model, and Steve has traveled the country advising other states on the program. As a result of the ERP, health and environmental risks in several under-regulated industries are getting the tools they need to run cleaner and safer operations.

Initiative Targets Default Contaminated Sites: Under a new compliance initiative for contaminated sites in default, MassDEP has told non-responder potentially responsible parties (PRPs) that they had until June 30, 2008 to come into compliance with state regulations regarding the assessment and cleanup of their properties. Approximately 400 non-responder property owners, representing 320 sites, are included in the initiative. The sites are a mix of residential/homeowner, municipal, small business and commercial and industrial properties. Each of these sites needs to be assessed, cleaned up and closed out to ensure that potential unknown risks are addressed in a timely manner. Non-responder PRPs who fail to come into compliance by June 30 will be prioritized for enforcement, including penalties, and they will be subject to compliance fees up to \$4,000 annually. For more

information on the compliance initiative, go to: www.mass.gov/dep/about/region/findyour.htm and find the MassDEP contact from your region. For information about compliance fees, call the Fee Inquiry Center at 617-292-5545.

Recycling on the T: As part of the Earth Day celebrations, MassDEP joined the Executive Office of Transportation, the MBTA, U.S. EPA Region 1, the City of Boston and MassPIRG to promote increased paper recycling on the MBTA commuter rail, subway and bus lines. With interagency support, the MBTA has placed newspaper recycling bins in key spots at T stations across eastern Massachusetts. Attending the announcement at the Haymarket station in Boston were James Hunt, head of Environment and Energy for the City of Boston, MBTA General Manager Daniel Grabauskas, MassDEP Commissioner Laurie Burt, EOT Secretary Bernard Cohen, and MassPIRG Consumer Advocate Eric Bourassa and EPA New England Administrator Robert Varney.

Making Watersense: MassDEP has joined the U.S. EPA WaterSense program, and MassDEP is urging public water systems across the Commonwealth to join the nationwide partnership. The WaterSense mission is to protect the future of the nation's water supply by promoting and enhancing the market for water-efficient products and services. WaterSense is partnering with irrigation professionals and certification programs to promote water-efficient landscape irrigation practices. WaterSense is also partnering with manufacturers, retailers and distributors, and utilities to bring WaterSense-approved products to the marketplace and make it easy to purchase high-performing, water-efficient products. For more information about the program and becoming a partner, go to: www.epa.gov/watersense

Re-dressing for Success: MassDEP preaches about "recycling and reusing" of materials, but many staffers also live that mantra. The Boston Public Schools recently held a "Dress for Success: How to Tie a Necktie" workshop, teaching young men that they must dress properly in order to become successful. So a call went out for used neckties for the young men. And MassDEP delivered! Approximately 300 young men participated in the workshop, and a collection organized through the MassDEP "Green Team" resulted in more than 100 ties being donated to the program. A few women's business suits were also donated, so that young women could use them on job interviews. Good job, MassDEP!



Massachusetts Department of
Environmental Protection
One Winter Street
Boston, MA 02108-4746

Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
Deval Patrick, Governor
Tim Murray, Lt. Governor

Executive Office of
Energy & Environmental Affairs
Ian Bowles, Secretary

Department of
Environmental Protection
Laurie Burt,
Commissioner